

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2008, claims 2 and 3 have been amended. Claims 1-31 are now pending in this application.

The indication that claims 1-31 are allowable except as to minor formal matters as to claims 1-3 is acknowledged and appreciated.

CHANGES REQUESTED BY THE EXAMINER

In the Office Action, the Examiner notes that the application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters noted with respect to claims 1, 2 and 3.

I. With respect claim 2, line 10 and claim 3, line 14, the Examiner maintains that “the corresponding diffusion region” should be “a corresponding diffusion region”.

By this response, claims 2 and 13 have been amended to recite “a corresponding diffusion region”.

II. The Examiner also maintains that in claim 1, at lines 10-11 and claim 2, lines 12-13, “gate conductor” should be “said gate conductor” and “the semiconductor storage device” should be “a semiconductor storage device”.

Finally, the Examiner requests that in claim 3, at line 16, “gate conductor” should be “said gate conductor”.

In a telephone conversation with the Examiner on December 5, 2008, it was pointed out that the preamble of claims 1 and 2 recites “A semiconductor storage device”,

which provides antecedent support for later reciting “the semiconductor storage device”. It was also noted that the change requested with respect to “gate conductor” is actually an initial recitation of “gate conductor functions”.

In view of this, the Examiner agreed that the additional changes requested in claims 1-3 that are listed in this section **II** do **NOT** have to be made as the recitations are correct.

CONCLUSION

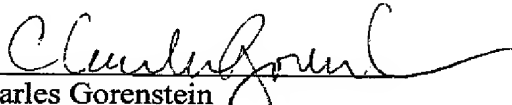
In view of the above, applicant(s) believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: January 8, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Charles Gorenstein

Registration No.: 29,271

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

Attorney for Applicant